

NORTHERN NEWS UFO

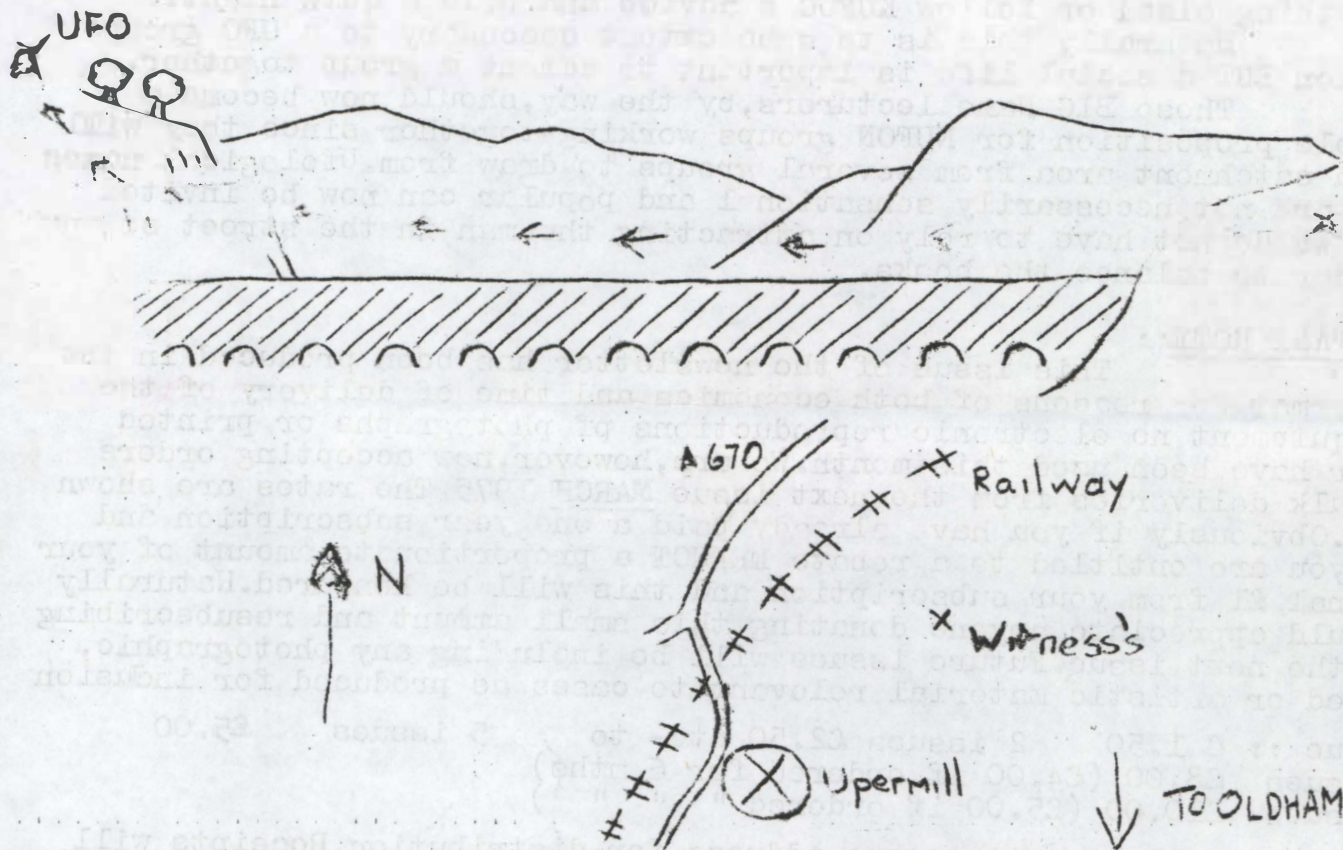
FEBRUARY

1975

10

THE PATH OF UPERMILL UFO

See P.7



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NORTHERN UFO NEWS : Monthly newsletter of NUFON

Northern UFO Network:: Newsletter copy 48 Park Drive Manchester M16
Formerly UNO NEWS

EDITORIAL: 'The social activities of groups'

Wirral UFO raised an interesting point in their latest journal when discussing the lack of group meetings. Of course they are in the somewhat fortunate position of having a tailor made meeting room at their school but their point is non the less valid. Some groups do consist of no more than a handful of dedicated members. For them a group meeting, other than at someones house, is impractical. Other groups have found the advantages of holding regular meetings at central venues which are well publicised in the local media. Apart from attracting new personnel it does draw sighting reports which otherwise would never come to light. I think every group in a reasonable state of organisation must consider the need for such events. A fairly central room, over a pub possibly, can be had at no more than a £1 per night. Well worth considering.

Perhaps it would be a good idea to treat each one like Trevor Whitaker suggests a conference must be treated - have a theme. Usually it is self destructive to hold repetitive meetings with no aim. Of course groups cannot afford BIG Name lecturers, but there are enough willing hands in other groups who will help out (put an appeal in this news letter). Then again you could always discuss a definite idea (UFO origins or anything else) or follow KUFOS advice and hold a quiz night.

Naturally this is to some extent secondary to a UFO groups function BUT a social life is important to cement a group together.

Those BIG Name lecturers, by the way, should now become a feasible proposition for NUFON groups working together since they will have a catchment area from several groups to draw from. Ufological names which are not necessarily sensational and popular can now be invited since we do not have to rely on attracting the man in the street so much in order to balance the books.

IMPORTANT NOTE: :

This issue of the newsletter has been produced in the new format. For reasons of both economics and time of delivery of the new equipment no electronic reproductions of photographs or printed matter have been used this month. We are, however, now accepting orders for bulk deliveries from the next issue MARCH 1975. The rates are shown below. Obviously if you have already paid a one year subscription and feel you are entitled to a rebate DEDUCT a proportionate amount of your original £1 from your subscription and this will be honoured. Naturally we would appreciate anyone donating this small amount and resubscribing from the next issue. Future issues will be including any photographic, printed or artistic material relevant to cases as produced for inclusion

1 issue :: £ 1.50 2 issues £2.50 etc- to 5 issues £5.00
10 issues £8.00 (£4.00 if ordered for 6 mths)
15 issues £10.00 (£5.00 if ordered " " ")

All copies will be sent to one address for distribution. Receipts will be sent with money detailing issue date to.

NUFON GROUPS:

BUFORA (Yorks): Trevor Whitaker 'Sheraleigh' 8 Central Park Wellhead
HALIFAX (0422 - 67047)

British Youth UFO: Alan Walsh 27 Tennison St Bootle (051-922-8690)

Midlands UFO Rep Aspc.: 28 Glebe Ave, Kettering, Nr Broughton NORTHANTS

Manchester UFO Res Asc: Pete Warrington 125 Salford St M14 4RY
(061-226-6712)

NAPRA: Dave Gittens 60 Tildsley Crescent Weston Village RUNCORN

Rosendale Astro Soc: Tim Evans Five Ways The Fields Haslingden
BB4 4DT (299-4679)

Scunthorpe UFO Soc: Nigel Watson 1 Angerstein Rd Scunthorpe DN17 2LZ

Wirral UFO Soc: Ken Green 760 New Chester Rd Bromborough L62 7HD
(051-334-1291 x 62)

BUFORA REP: (Lancs, Cheshire) Gordon Clegg 107 Moylake Rd Sale M33 1XJ

COPY DATE: : Feb 28 1975

48 Park Drive Manchester M16 0AH

GROUP NEWS

BUFORA (Yorks):: Our thanks must go out to [unclear] [unclear] for doing so much to implement the new BUFORA group [unclear] [unclear] schemes. Apparently at their planning meeting last November he had a good deal to do with it. News seems still to be concentrated in the [unclear] area which seems to have had a minor wave in November (cf Rosendale). Hopefully we can soon feature more information on this. The group is involved with the BUFORA research into car stopping incidents. A new case from Egerton Hill, Derby saw a UFO involved with a car stopping and electrical systems cutting out. Compasses apparently spin wildly. Since the scene of the incident is close to a BBC transmitter the possibility of microwave effects is being considered.

BRITISH YOUTH:: Unfortunately are having a few internal problems, which I am sure must only be temporary due to the groups enthusiasm. They have plans for a weekend convention in a farmhouse at Anglesey or a two day affair in Liverpool. They are considering inviting their overseas members to this. Also they plan a FREE show in the Liverpool Planetarium, possibly in April. More details anon. They are having problems dealing with current reports and need new members. BUFORA have promised to help. Perhaps WUFOS can lend a temporary hand?

MIDLANDS UFO:: Kettering UFO have changed their name to incorporate the whole of the midlands. They are in contact with Australia and Bangla Desh. They are currently holding skywatches in Ministry of Defence property (well actually its an old hut on a hill). Nothing official yet - but they are trying to get an official grant for instrumentation. Well worth trying.

MUFORA:: As you will note from Pete Warrington's article elsewhere this issue MUFORA hope to be able to gell together all the active elements of UFO investigation in the Greater Manchester area. They already have made start on this. As will also be noticed they have been busy with sightings too, investigating a fair number these past weeks. When not doing that they have been out and about photographing sites of reports. Their next meeting is on Tues February 18th at the Granada TV studios. All welcome.

APRA:: The position here is somewhat unclear. They were beset with trouble when top personnel were unfortunately absent through illnesses. The trend did seem to improve but now apparently they are having another internal rethink. We wish them every success, of course, since they cover a vital part of the North which is otherwise devoid of investigators. They do ask me to correct the comment about the Geiger Counter whose price is £3 member, Mr Tyrer, is off to NASA later this year and hopes to glean some news and information from them.

OSSENDALE ASTRO:: They hold their AGM this month and anticipate big changes. They hope to concentrate further on UFO work and possibly to change the group name to incorporate this. They also hope to appoint a UFO administrator to the committee. At present Tony Grinshaw (Ross 3227) is in charge of this side. Tim Evans asks for any information on Blastonbury since he is doing some research into this. They also wonder if it is feasible to set up a lending library. Send ideas to them.

CUNTHORPE UFO:: Not too much news to record. Nigel Watson has been made MUFORA RIC for the Humberside, Lincolnshire and Notts area so he promises more UFO News in future. He suggests a documentary film produced by several NUFON groups - each taking one aspect of ufology????

IRRAL UFO Soc:: After a month of publicity in December (two radio spots and a repeat of their Look North TV feature) they give details of their plans for the Summer when Mike Dean and Ken Green leave school. The school group will continue with Mark Williamson at the helm and the adult section under Ken will be expanded - in close touch, of course, with its parent body. They are taking charge of the initial arrangements for a joint NUFON skywatch and want YOUR ideas as soon as possible so details can be given in next months issue. (eg day or night, how to arrange coordination) Ken Green also needs a cheap second hand TYPEWRITER in good condition and it must have a stencil fitting.

GENERAL NEWS::

*** The BUFORA RIC conference due to be held on Mar 8/9 has had to be postponed. The main conference, open to all Ufologists, is now finalised on MAY 10/11 at the GRAND HOTEL, Honley, Staffs. The registration fee is £3 (£2 Sat only) and hotel reservations are available for £3,50. The event promises much, concentrating on investigation with several well known speakers. Details from Tony Pace, New Chapel Observatory, Staffs.

** The APEN affair continues. The final week in January brought three letters and one tape from them - but still no address. The general consensus is that they are 'having us on'. It is hard to swallow their elaborate security, seemingly unlimited funds and access to important cases nobody else has ever heard of. Their tape too contained lots of military music, fanfares and American voices - arranged to sound like they have seen details of an alleged contact case from North Wales: (no 174L 74-71/349 ST). At least our files are not so complex. Obviously we will keep you posted - but unless they give us an address there is nothing we intend to do.

** The latest "Skywatch" contains some interesting comments such as BUFORA as, "the old campaigners who never fail to raise a laugh with their approach and attitude to the UFO phenomena in GB". Then follows a destruction of the planning meeting they held in November, though where the (totally inaccurate) information came from who can say. NUFON is not "laughing at BUFORA" nor do we accept they are "too vague in their plans". A circular they sent round makes these plain: 1) Groups can affiliate for ONE membership fee 2) Sighting forms, unheaded, will be cheaply supplied 3) Reports will be evaluated by experts and copies sent to the group 4) Credit will be given to the group involved. True they have taken a while to come - but they have come. NUFON intends to fully cooperate with this effort to unify national approaches to Ufology. BUFORA recognises this and has pledged support to us.

One final point from Mr Rees of Skywatch: "British Ufology won't be in existence much longer. Local group publications serve their purpose TO THEMSELVES. British UFO publications, compared to the Americans, are as scientific as Beano Comics!"

Judging Skywatch as a standard of factuality THAT is an insult to the Beano!!

** WIRRAL UFO, supervised by Mike Dean, are engaged in a sociological investigation into sightings. NUFON has supplied information for these categories: PLACE, DATE, No OF WITNESSES, SEX, AGES, OCCUPATIONS. If you are able to help contact Mike: 3 Holnfield Dr, Gt Sutton L66 2SS

SIGHTINGS OUT OF THE AREA::

Perhaps the most interesting was the first recorded 1975 case from Spain - just about publicised here. The original press release went: "Zaragossa - Flying Saucer landed on firing range at the Bardelas Realus Proving Ground about 80km NW of here. The saucer which gave off a pulsing light took off again several minutes after it landed. Spanish Air Force officials are investigating. Thursday January 24"

THOUGHTS ON UFOs: Dave Morley It is claimed to be a scientific fact that we cannot have something out of nothing. Reflection on a starlit sky establishes at once that there is order NOT chance. Where there is order there is thought. What broods beyond the vast immensity of space? Are we watched night and day by other planets - other beings? We may never find the answer but we must never abandon the attempt to seek it.

Our objectives are to maintain a watch, gain knowledge of UFOs and record information on relevant equipment. We must PROVE that craft are operating in our environment. True we lack manpower. True we lack finance - but we can at least gather the truth AND MAKE IT KNOWN. Information about UFOs is for all to see. WE will not, like some, lock our files away in a cupboard. Perhaps the key to the mystery lies buried in a box file of some UFO enthusiast.

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REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION MEETING: January 30 1975

The meeting took place at the Granada TV Studios, Manchester thanks to the help of Jeff Porter. We had a luxuriously fitted room at our disposal provided an ideal atmosphere for the talks.

Present were Chris Randles and Dave Morley from the former UNO committee, Jeff Porter, Pete Warrington and Bill Greenham from MUFORA, Arthur Tomlinson from DIGAP, plus Gordon Clegg and assistant Ron Thomas (BUFORA Lanes) and Trevor Whitaker and partner Dave Winter (BUFORA York)

a) Current situation: An outline of UNO since its formation was given. Plus all the feelings of the groups on the various issues. All present were absolutely in agreement that GROUP INDEPENDANCE was vital. The function we were creating was an intermediate step between the national set up and isolation. It was very urgent that groups feel a PART of us. It was felt that the sharing of experience would help some of the newer groups to survive the difficult (and often lonely) early periods after their formation. The Merseyside situation was noted with interest and it was wondered how far WUFOs and BYUIG would be able to cooperate. In Greater Manchester DIGAP had practically ceased active investigation but efforts were made to add to the already existing BUFORA & MUFORA 'understanding' and coordinate activities together.

b) Suggested improvements: Discussion centred round a new name - which was felt essential. All proposals were discussed and it was felt that to incorporate the word NETWORK as a better summation of our aims and to maintain our broad northern restrictions NORTHERN UFO NETWORK: NUFON should be chosen. An outline of our aims was read and it was agreed to circularise these to all groups. In the main they were just a tidying up of previous functions. It was further suggested that better contact with official bodies would be possible through NUFON for the groups. Some ideas for this were to be taken up. It was also felt that joint NUFON functions - such as lectures were now possible. The idea of a 24 hour call network of group investigators would also be taken up with the groups.

c) Committee structure: It was felt unethical to self elect an administration and it was generally agreed that a GOVERNING COMMITTEE formed with representatives from each group was essential to do this. The problems involved in travel and previous attempts to form such a committee were pointed out. It was agreed that the GC need not meet often - though the Admin would - but that groups should all have the opportunity of sending a representative to GC meetings (even if they did not do so). It was decided to visit personally ALL groups and put these matters to them. The face to face meeting would also help understanding and cooperation. Gordon Clegg and Trevor Whitaker agreed to go on behalf of BUFORA as well as NUFON to explain how the national groups plans fitted in with ours. A GC meeting would be held in late March.

d) NUFON files: The situation with regards to the files, held by Mr Rees was explained. It was discussed how Jeff Porter and Pete Warrington went to see him to try to obtain copies. At first they were told they were not there, then refused to see them. It was felt that we did not wish to take legal action, though this may be necessary, but that groups had sent copies in good faith and this must be honoured. A letter would be sent to Mr Rees first with the signatures of all groups, if agreed, asking for copies of these reports.

THE MAGAZINE: :

The possibility of expanding this to open sale was considered but not as an immediate aim. At present it should simply serve as a means of giving out up to date information on group activities and other local news. It was decided to try to eliminate all 'padding'.

NUFON will also FREELY publish on behalf of a group the results of any research work or special reports on investigations. We see this as a vital part of our role. Naturally the group will be credited for it.

ANALYSIS OF GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Following the forms which all groups were asked to fill in we are now able to give a general survey of group ideas and activities. Seven forms were returned (only two were not).

Formation dates ranged from 1958 for DIGAP through MUFORA and BUFORA Yorks (early 1960s) to the new wave of 1972-3 groups which form the bulk of NUFON.

Group aims widely followed BUFORAs, which must be heartening for them. Others just said "to investigate reports" and one summed it all up with "to find out what UFOs are!"

Membership in general averaged around 15-20, though obviously these will all be overestimates of real membership. Wirral are the big exception with 84 within their school and adult groups!

Age Ranges were very consistent 16 - 65 (how many 65 yr olds are there really I wonder?) Scunthorpe seen the exception with a range of 20-30.

SIGHTINGS total, amazingly, over 800! Bufora Yorks deal with about 30 a year, never less than 14 and 70 in 1967. Both older groups DIGAP and MUFORA have several hundred reports each - somewhere!

Meetings are pretty frequent, on the face of it. Most groups have 'regular' ones and BUFORA Yorks (first Monday in each month at the address given on pl) and DIGAP (2nd Friday in every month at Friends Meeting house Central Manchester) are very definite. SUFORS used to meet weekly, but due to economics now monthly and WUFOS at school meet about once a fortnight.

Skywatches are infrequent apart from WUFOSs efforts. Mainly just the annual BUFORA affair is supported - and not that by all.

Opinions on UFOs are mostly open with comments such as "on the evidence we cannot subscribe to one explanation" (YORKS) and "of course not!" (SUFORS) to "Extra Terrestrial vehicles" (IAPRA) and "hardware" DIGAP

NB: In future issues it is hoped to feature an in depth article on one group in turn. If you have any information/ or photographs of group activities or members which you would like included send them along.

PETE WARRINGTON OF MUFORA: A Message

At best the study of UFOs by amateurs is to say the least a little dubious to the public, at worst it must be barely more than mumbled trash. It should be realised that groups engaged in this field are in the public eye more than it would first seem. A BBC producer once told me, during a live transmission, that whether we realised it or not we were doing a public service. The front we put to the public is of great importance in these days when Ufology is becoming a respected subject. The future could be affected by adverse publicity. In such situations the researcher must be competent in putting a strong case for the subject. This can only come through thorough knowledge and reliable data. The use of poorly researched and incorrect data has already done serious damage to the furtherance of serious work into what surely must be the greatest enigma of our time.

For many years the area centred on Greater Manchester has had several UFO organisations often in direct, though unintended, competition. They have not only competed for membership but duplicated investigations and resources. In some ways groups have been working directly against each other. It has been suggested that one well organised and resourceful group would be sufficient for the region. Such a group would have wide contacts, resources and facilities and could amount to a reasonable selection of equipment. Regular meetings would be the basis of organisation but it would not be vital to have a great membership provided those active were prepared to work. The establishment of such a group would best come as an expansion of an already existing one - so that useful contacts could be maintained. I would like to forward the initiative on behalf of MUFORA (MANCHESTER UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION) and await response.

In the past when a report reaches a group it is not always possible to respond immediately. In some cases just a few hours could lose vital data. In an attempt to fill this gap myself and Jeff Porter will offer 24 hr, 7 day capability. In other words we will turn out rapidly to any UFO case which merits a fast response. The prospects of setting up such a system amongst all NUFON groups is being looked at.

INVESTIGATION SECTION::

Before commencing on new reports a few words about previously recorded ones:

REPORT 182: As noted last month a cooperative witness to the Rochdale sighting was turned up by BUFORA. The date and time are the same (Oct 5th 1974 at 19-10) and this report comes from a BUFORA member and his girl friend in Ramsbottom. The girl friend first saw what she thought was a bright star but after two or three minutes it began moving. She told her boy friend and they both watched a fluorescent white ball move silently on a WSW to ENE course. After a moment it elongated into a tube shape and it grew dimmer. It faded towards the horizon slowly, in view 5 mins.

THIS REPORT NOW CODED 7452 (previous Rochdale report 7439)

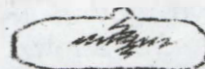
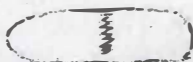
ROSSENDALE UFO PROCESSION (see last month):

ROSS.ASTRO SOCIETY

A further witness has turned up for this very important case. She is a 23 yr old housewife and saw just one object for about ten minutes on the same path as all the other witnesses. She describes it as 'sausage' shaped, dull grey with bright white lights (which were NOT the Sun reflected) spaced out along its length. It was easy to follow the moderately moving and steady motion. She heard no sound.

HER DRAWING:

THE OTHER TWO: (see last month)



THIS REPORT CODED 7460 (November 24 1974 16-15)

(PS:: Ringway Airport report NO radar trackings and NO aircraft likely to account for the reports. A Viscount to Aberdeen left at 16-05 but was not due to fly very close to the region. It would have been much higher than reported and ought to have been heard anyway)

In any event its flightpath was to the NE and all witnesses agree on the NW path of this/these objects.

REPORT 7338 Jan 5 1973 Mon 16-00 Prescott, Lancs

NAPRA

A labourer reported seeing a domed disc for four minutes. It was first seen high in the west as a spherical shape. It appeared to descend through about 15 degrees and appeared as in the diagram. It hovered for a few seconds by the Church spire and then shot upwards, accelerating away.



REPORT 7453/7454 November (12?) 1974 21-35 Read Village, Lancs

Only a brief introduction will be given to this ROSSENDALE ASTRO SOC. Case since it is anticipated an early in depth investigation will be done (including radiation checks and other tests at the possible landing sight)

Two teenagers walking through the almost deserted village saw a red light (seemingly attached to the underside of a cigar shaped object) hovering over the Church. It flashed every three or four seconds. They were very close to it, the light was bright and gave strong illumination of its shape and there was no noise. They are certain it was not a helicopter. It moved away to some woods and descended seeming to go below the tree level briefly. It then rose again, changed direction and headed away towards Accrington. They estimated it was in view about 15 mins and a third witness saw the latter part of the sighting.

More news to come on yet another interesting Rossendale valley case.

REPORT 7446 November 19 1974 22-35

Davyhulme, M/Cr MUFORA

A man and his wife looking out at a bearing of 240 degrees from his home saw a round ball, pinkish white in colour. It seemed to slowly approach and described a slight W motion in the sky. It appeared to begin to spin clockwise and to fade. It moved upwards and out of sight without accelerating. It was in view for 10-12 minutes and the family dog became excited during this time. No reports from the weather centre indicate a potential cause.

REPORT 7461 Mid December 1974 20-15

Jacksons Boat, M/Cr MUFORA

AT OS REF: SJ 807925. A young 23 yr old observed the passage of a bright orange object across 45 degrees of sky very fast. It was first seen pulsing very slowly (three or four times in 29 secs) it then shot across the sky fading out slowly.

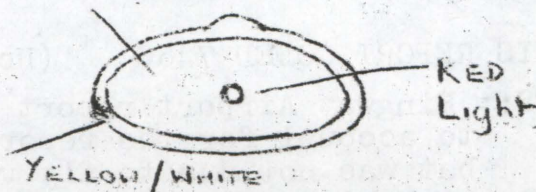
THE OLDHAM FLAP:: The moorland areas to the NE of Oldham have been the scene of an early year flap. Some of the reports are recorded below. Others are still being looked into.

REPORT 7501 January 5 1975 16-30 Upermill

MUFORA

The two principle witnesses are very young children (9&10) but there is little doubt of their sincerity and at least 11 older witnesses are known of. They were playing when over the moors an object as bright as street lamps moved N-S in about 10 secs. The drawing is shown opposite and it was humming (at according to one child's father who is keen on electronics) 100 cps - like a generator. The outer light or ring seemed to flicker or rotate. The police were called in.

BLACK OF SKY



REPORT 7502 January 14 1975 20-25 Moorside

MUFORA

Again children, but older (13&15). They had just stabled their horses at a farm (OS REF 952068) and were walking home. They saw the object hovering over some houses. At first it seemed high but then it came closer and appeared to rotate. It also seemed to move 'to and fro'. Eventually it moved upwards and went out of sight. Again the police were called who were impressed by the two girls. A temperature inversion WAS present - but a weather spokesman felt it was too high and weak to cause such a report. When asked if it could be a helicopter the girls said, "It made no noise and there was no wind." The girls were frightened considerably by the event.



REPORT 7503 January 10 1975 20-30 Lees

MUFORA

A man and his girlfriend driving near Oldham Golf Course saw an object slowly traversing the sky very low. It was formed of a non distinct light with lines of blue, red and orange (melting into each other) above it. It came in their general direction and they stopped the car to have a better view. It was below the level of a hill, against which it passed and after going behind the golf club house it was no longer seen.

REPORT 7504 January 16 1975 08-55 Greenacres

MUFORA

Two more young boys drew for their headmaster a domed object with a light which they saw from their school playground. They said it was silver, the size of a car and at a height of about 150 feet.



POSTSCRIPT: The Oldham Evening Chronicle took great interest in all these reports, interviewing Peter Warrington about them all and carrying several pictures. They featured a 'possible explanation' of a weather balloon from Berkshire someone found in their garden. That this was floating around Oldham all the time between January 5 and 16 is some what hard to accept - though it MAY have been the cause of some reports